

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY D:DLAMB:LAB
APPROVED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 184548 TOSEC 080144

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM CHRISTOPHER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS), PFOR

SUBJECT: EVENING READING

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF FRIDAY'S EVENING READING:

1. INDOCHINA REFUGEES. GRIFFIN BELL, DICK HOLBROOKE, COMMISSIONER CASTILLO AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM HEW TESTIFIED BEFORE THE EILBERG SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION YESTERDAY IN SUPPORT OF PAROLE AUTHORITY FOR THE 15,000 REFUGEES FROM INDOCHINA. EILBERG WROTE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TODAY AND AGREED TO THE PAROLE. WE EXPECT JUDGE BELL TO GRANT THE AUTHORITY NEXT WEEK.

WE ARE MOVING AHEAD WITH PLANS FOR THE PROCESSING AND RESETTLEMENT OF THE NEW REFUGEES IN THE UNITED STATES. WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE FIRST FAMILIES WILL START MOVING WITHIN SIX WEEKS. RESETTLEMENT WILL TAKE EIGHT MONTHS TO A YEAR.

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THE INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ADDRESSING THE LONGER TERM PROBLEM IS OFF TO A GOOD START. SUB-GROUPS ARE WORKING ON (1) AN ASSESSMENT OF THE REFUGEE FLOW OVER THE NEXT THREE YEARS; (2) OUR POLICY TOWARD ACCEPTING ADDITIONAL INDOCHINA

REFUGEES AND THE AUTHORITIES NEEDED; (3) DOMESTIC

RESETTLEMENT AIDS; (4) DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO DO MORE; AND (5) THE ACUTE PROBLEMS POSED BY THE LARGE REFUGEE POPULATION IN THAILAND. THE TASK FORCE WILL COMPLETE ITS WORK IN ABOUT THIRTY DAYS.

2. MEXICAN NATURAL GAS. ON WEDNESDAY, SIX US GAS TRANSMISSION COMPANIES SIGNED A MEMORANDUM OF INTENT WITH MEXICO PROVIDING FOR THE IMPORT OF TWO BILLION CUBIC FEET OF GAS PER DAY, STARTING ABOUT 1979. THE COMPANIES ARE TO ARRANGE ABOUT ONE BILLION DOLLARS IN FINANCING FOR THE 750-MILE PIPELINE NEEDED TO BRING THE GAS FROM SOUTH-EASTERN MEXICO TO THE TEXAS BORDER. THE AGREEMENT CALLS FOR A PRICE EQUIVALENT TO NO. 2 HEATING OIL IN THE NEW YORK HARBOR, OR ABOUT DOLLARS 2.60 PER THOUSAND CUBIC FEET (MCF) OF GAS. WE NEED THE NATURAL GAS, BUT THIS PRICE PROVISION COULD CAUSE PROBLEMS, SINCE WE ARE NOW IMPORTING CANADIAN GAS AT DOLLARS 2.16. WE AND FEA ARE CONSIDERING HOW TO INTERVENE EFFECTIVELY WITH THE MEXICANS AND THE COMPANIES ON THE PRICE QUESTION.

3. INDIA. WE BELIEVE THERE IS AT LEAST A REASONABLE CHANCE THAT INDIA MAY BE WILLING TO ACCEPT IAEA SAFEGUARDS ON ALL ITS NUCLEAR FACILITIES. IF SO, IT WOULD BE THE FIRST TIME THAT A COUNTRY WHICH HAS PUT ONE FOOT ACROSS THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS THRESHOLD HAS DRAWN BACK. A HIGH OFFICIAL OF THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TOLD JOE NYE DURING
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HIS VISIT TO NEW DELHI THAT THE INDIAN CABINET MAY DEAL WITH THE ISSUE DURING THE NEXT TWO MONTHS. WHILE NYE'S TALKS CONFIRMED THAT INDIA'S INTEREST IS SERIOUS, PRIME MINISTER DESAI WILL NEED TO BE REASSURED THAT THE SAFEGUARDS ARE NON-DISCRIMINATORY AND THAT WE ARE SEEKING A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN WITHOUT EXEMPTIONS. THESE POINTS COULD BE NAILED DOWN IF DESAI VISITS IN OCTOBER.

FOLLOWING UP ON MY VISIT TO NEW DELHI, WE ARE MOVING AHEAD WITH INDIA ON THE QUESTION OF RESUMING OUR AID PROGRAM. TECHNICAL TALKS HAVE BEGUN IN NEW DELHI. CONGRESS HAS EARMARKED 60 MILLION DOLLARS FOR FY 78 AND WE HAVE SET 136 MILLION AS A PLANNING FIGURE FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR. IN LINE WITH AMBASSADOR GOHEEN'S RECOMMENDATIONS, WE WILL BE CONCENTRATING PRIMARILY ON AGRICULTURE AND ARE CONSIDERING ASSISTANCE TO RURAL HEALTH PROGRAMS.

4. PUBLIC OPINION FAVORS A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND. ACCORDING TO A RECENT ROPER POLL, THE AMERICAN PUBLIC FAVORS ESTABLISHMENT OF A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND, AND WOULD INCREASE ITS SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIANS IF THE PLO WERE

TO SOFTEN ITS STANCE TOWARD ISRAEL. HALF OF THOSE INTERVIEWED HAD NO OPINION OR WERE ADMITTEDLY UNINFORMED ON THE ISSUE. OF THE REMAINDER, THREE OUT OF FIVE SUPPORTED A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND. OF THOSE SUPPORTING THE PALESTINIANS, ONE IN THREE VOLUNTEERED THE COMMENT THAT THEY WERE DISTURBED BY PLO TERRORISM.

THE ROPER FINDINGS ARE IN LINE WITH OTHER RECENT POLL DATA SHOWING THAT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC REMAINS PREDOMINANTLY PRO-ISRAEL BUT FAVORS A COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT IN WHICH ISRAEL EXCHANGES TERRITORY FOR PEACE. SUPPORT FOR A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND IS STRONGEST AMONG THE COLLEGE EDUCATED, WHO ALSO REGISTER THE STRONGEST SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL.

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5. NORTH KOREAN SEA LIMIT. YOU ASKED WHETHER WE COULD INTEREST THE SOVIETS IN REMONSTRATING WITH NORTH KOREA OVER ITS ASSERTION OF A 60-SOME MILE MILITARY SEA BOUNDARY. THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN WITH US ON FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION IN THE 200-MILE ZONE IN THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE AND THEY PROBABLY LOOK ASKANCE AT NORTH KOREA'S ACTION. WE PLAN TO INSTRUCT AMBASSADOR TOON TO RAISE THE KOREAN ACTION AT A HIGH LEVEL IN THE SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY, PUTTING THE MATTER IN THE FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION CONTEXT. WHETHER THEY WILL PROTEST THE NEW BOUNDARY WILL DEPEND TO SOME DEGREE ON WHAT THE CHINESE DO, BUT THE SOVIETS COULD FIND SUBTLE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE PYONGYANG TO THINK AGAIN, AND THIS MIGHT BE HELPFUL. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, NATURAL GAS, PALESTINIANS, BRIEFING MATERIALS, NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS, PUBLIC OPINION POLLS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE184548
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DLAMB:LAB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840072-1266
Format: TEL
From: STATE SS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770891/aaaacyesm.tel
Line Count: 150
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9b57e360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1692578
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EVENING READING
TAGS: OVIP, SREF, PARM, ENRG, SOPN, MX, IN, IS
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9b57e360-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009